

**ALLIANCE  
FOR**

022678

553725

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2001

September 28, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Sherry L. Reilly  
Director

Dear Secretary Abraham:

On behalf of the Alliance for Sound Nuclear Policy, a broad-based national coalition of business, consumer, industry and labor groups, I urge you to recommend Yucca Mountain as the repository for our nation's spent nuclear fuel to President Bush. It is essential that this program continue moving forward. DOE must submit a site recommendation on Yucca Mountain to the President this year.

20 years of in-depth scientific investigation has examined every environmental facet of Yucca Mountain. These studies have yielded the scientific information necessary for a decision to be made this year. There are no technical or scientific issues to disqualify Yucca Mountain from serving as a permanent repository.

Electricity consumers have committed more than \$17 billion to the federal government's nuclear waste management program. The site recommendation will ensure that the Energy Department lives up to its responsibility to consumers to take ownership of used nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power plants and radioactive waste from national defense programs.

DOE must keep on schedule to ensure timely movement of used fuel from nuclear facilities around the country. Without Yucca Mountain, dozens of nuclear power plants will run out of existing space at specially designed facilities to store used nuclear fuel. Lacking a government disposal facility, electric utilities must either shut down nuclear plants or expand on-site storage capacity. Either way, this multi-million dollar cost gets passed on to American taxpayers.

I urge you to make used nuclear fuel disposal one of your highest priorities. Sound energy policy must include a resolution to the issue of nuclear waste disposal.

Sincerely,

*Sherry L. Reilly*

Sherry L. Reilly

American Public Power  
Association

Council for Citizens Against  
Government Waste

Covering Your Assets  
Coalition

Edison Electric Institute

Frontiers of Freedom

International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers

National Association of  
Manufacturers

National Association of  
Neighborhoods

National Black Chamber of  
Commerce

Nuclear Energy Institute

60 Plus Association, Inc.

United Seniors  
Association, Inc.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

U.S. Hispanic Chamber of  
Commerce

Utility Workers Union of  
America

1776 I Street, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC  
20006-3708  
202.293.8185